

MHT EASEMENTS ON THE WILSON'S MILL COMPLEX

1. HA-392 Wilson's Mill Tenant House
2. HA-25 Wilson's Mill Miller's House
3. HA-10 Wilson's Mill House (Main House)
4. HA-11 Wilson Mill

# Easement

HA-11

Wilson's Mill  
702 Darlington Road  
Darlington vicinity  
Private

c. 1800

Wilson's Mill is the most important building in the Wilson's Mill complex, one of the oldest and most complete mill groups on Deer Creek. Mills such as this were important factors in the settlement of the area and the growth of industry in the county. Possibly built as early as 1760, the stone structure has the dates 1810, 1825, and 1845 carved into its walls and rafters.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wilson's Mill

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

202 Darlington Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Darlington

VICINITY OF

1st

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
—DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE      —MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	—UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL      —PARK
—STRUCTURE	—BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL      —PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>		—ENTERTAINMENT      —RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	X YES RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT      —SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	—YES UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL      —TRANSPORTATION
	X Not applicable	—NO	—MILITARY      X OTHER storage

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Windon Fifth Real Estate Ltd. Partnership  
c/o Robert Olson

Telephone #: (215) 667-3505

STREET &amp; NUMBER Suite 253, 111 Presidential Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Bala Cynwyd,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
PA 19004**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #: 1143

Folio #: 73

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Harford County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

40 So. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

c. 1970

—FEDERAL    X STATE    —COUNTY    —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

MD

## 7 DESCRIPTION

7-11

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wilson's Mill is a two-and-a-half story stone industrial building dating from the early 19th century and located on the north bank of Deer Creek just west of the Darlington Road (MD 161) bridge in Harford County, Maryland. The millrace runs from the west to the mill, turning to parallel the west wall of the building and running back to the Creek.

The mill was built of uncoursed rubble stone with large quoins and a slate gable roof. The upper portion of the gables is frame with horizontal siding. On the west gable is a clock face; the clock (installation date unknown) is not presently operating, but is run by a weight and pulley system inside the mill. A board and batten frame shed was added to the northwest side of the stone block at an unknown date. The stone walls are stabilized by iron tie rods finished on the exterior in rosettes and ogee curves. Windows and doors are functionally placed in an irregular pattern. Most are six-over-six sash. The main entrance in the north elevation is a Dutch door with tongue and groove planks.

The interior of the mill retains its hand-hewn structural beams. The shed contains the miller's office with the original desk and chair. The gristmill machinery was removed and stored in the third floor loft in 1931. A water-powered electrical generator was installed and remains in place, but is no longer used. The current owner plans to restore the generator and return it to operation.

The mill dam and the head of the mill race are located about one-quarter mile upstream. The dam was rebuilt in 1932 by Francis J. Stokes, then owner of the mill property.

The Maryland Historical Trust obtained a perpetual easement in 1976 on the exterior of all buildings, the interior of the mill, and its machinery.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-11

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			local history

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson's Mill is the most important building in the Wilson's Mill complex, one of the oldest and most complete mill groups on Deer Creek. Mills such as this were important factors in the settlement of the area and the growth of industry in the county.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Wilson's Mill stands on the tract "Parker's Chance" acquired in 1743 by Nathan Rigbie; his will mentions a mill and dam in 1783. One source states the present mill was built in 1760.<sup>1</sup> The mill does not appear on the 1795 map of Harford County. It passed to Joseph Brinton in 1802, to Reuben Stump in 1821, to Rachel Price in 1856, and into the Wilson family through her second husband, William Wilson, and thence to their son, David Wilson. in 1866. Wilson's Mill appears near the D.E. Wilson house on the 1858 Jennings and Herrick map.

The 1880 census listed David E. Wilson's custom mill worth \$6000 with five employees, three run of stones, and 500 bu/diem maximum. A 10-foot fall on Deer Creek drove a 25 hp, 3-foot turbine at 120 rpm. Its output was 250 bbl flour, 26 tons meal, 9.7 tons feed, and 1 ton hominy (\$3000). The sawmill, worth \$1000, had two employees and one each circular and Muley saws. The same fall on Deer Creek drove a 30 hp, 3-foot turbine at 200 rpm to cut 200,000 ft. (\$4000). The mill is also listed under Glenville in the 1887 state directory.

D. Gilpin Wilson operated the mill from 1903 to 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Stokes acquired the mill in 1931 and used it to house an electrical generator for the estate. In spite of its claims to age, the date 1810 is chiseled into the wall. A stone in the exterior north elevation bears the date 1845 and an interior rafter has an 1825 date.

<sup>1</sup> Harford County Directory, 1953, p. 317.

For further information on the Wilson's Mill complex, see Wilson's Mill House (HA-10), Wilson's Mill Miller's House (HA-25), and Wilson's Mill Tenant House (HA-392).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Harford County Directory, 1953 Mason, Samuel, Jr. Historical Sketches  
McGrain, John. Molinography of Harford County. of Harford County, Maryland, 1940.  
Preston, W. W. History of Harford County. Forwood, William Stump. "Homes on  
Wright, C. M. Our Harford Heritage. Deer Creek", Aegis-Intelligenc  
Maps: Jennings and Herrick, 1858 Dec. 1879-February 1880.  
Martenet, 1878

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

## **11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Dept. of Planning and Zoning .

DATE

September 1982

STREET & NUMBER

45 So. Main St.

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000, ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Significance (continued)

Samuel Mason, in Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland, gives the carved inscriptions on Wilson's Mill as: "S.B. Silver, 1817; E.R., 1822; and C.R. Smith, 1837". C.R. Smith was the miller in 1837 under the ownership of Reuben Stump.

William Stump Forwood, in his "Homes on Deer Creek" series in the Aegis-Intelligencer in 1879-80, referred to Wilson's Mill as "anciently called Alfred Mills". The source of this name is unknown.

The main route between Darlington, Glenville, and Harmony Church ran along the present access road between the Mill and the Mill House on the hill. According to Mason's book, the original covered bridge crossing the Deer Creek stood opposite the Miller's House and was washed away in a freshet in 1865. The second covered bridge was built at another location east of the present bridge. (See HA-393 and 394.)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford TOWN Darlington VICINITY STREET NO. Rt. 161		HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY HA-11
ORIGINAL OWNER possibly, Col. Rigbie ORIGINAL USE mill PRESENT OWNER Mrs. Francis Stokes PRESENT USE generating plant WALL CONSTRUCTION stone NO. OF STORIES two		DATE OR PERIOD revolutionary STYLE mill ARCHITECT BUILDER
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC no
<p>The mill is a typical grist mill structure, three bays wide and two bays deep with the entrance in the gable. It is built of stone on the banks of Deer Creek. It retains some original structural members within and some window framing. The doors are batten "Dutch" doors. Presently, there is a turbine engine which is used to generate electricity for the farm. It was built on property called "Parker's Chance" and possibly by Nathan Rigbie who owned the Rigbie House, a few miles north of this point. There are records of Col. Rigbie having supplied the Continental Army with supplies from his mill.</p>		
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interior good <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior good		
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust
		DATE OF RECORD May 9, 1968

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

4A-11

R. FIELD SHEET

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Wilson's Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Piggin's Mill on "Parker's Chance" tract

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

West side of Darlington Road at Bear Creek, north of the bridge.

CITY OR TOWN:

1.7 mi south of Darlington

STATE

Maryland

CODE

COUNTY:

Harford

CODE

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Small generator supplies power for the farm.</u>
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mrs. Frances Joseph Stokes

STREET AND NUMBER:

1009 Westview Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Philadelphia

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE

STATE:

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Clerk of the Circuit Court,

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harford County Courthouse, 40 S. Main St.

CITY OR TOWN:

Philadelphia Pa

STATE:

Pa

CODE

COUNTY:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal State County Local 

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>	
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stone mill is still operated by ~~an undershot water wheel~~  
~~dam~~ ~~and~~ ~~spurts~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~door~~, ~~this~~ ~~grist mill~~ is  
 It is two bays by three west the entrance to the north; the slate roofline runs north-south.

Doors are "Dutch" doors, batten. Structural beams are hand-hewn, ~~with the mill floor~~ wide plank flooring. Much of the original machinery remains, although Mr. Stakas added an electric generator to supply power for the farm as a project for a retired industrialist.

The mill-race, ~~is intact,~~ flows from the dam which was rebuilt in 1932 upstream on Deer Creek.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS  
SEE

B. SIGNIFICANCE				
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Pre-Calumbian	<input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)				
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Aboriginal	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>	
Prehistoric	Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Historic	Industry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Science <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Agriculture	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>		
Art	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>		
Communications	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation	Military <input type="checkbox"/>			
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.) <i>(See sheet above)</i>				
<p><i>One of ten of the oldest mills on record      since there is no certain record of this mill      in Hartford County, this was built between      1743 and 1782 by Nathan Pease II      between 1743 and 1782.      owned the land from the farm by him      Nathan Pease II, Nathan Pease is on record as      having sold his barn to Pease, which stands the farmland      (see sheet above - continue)      In continuous use until 1931, it was      altered by its new owner, F. J. Stokes of      Philadelphia to generate electricity for his      country place. The original granite stones      are in place, however, and the building      retains its simple appearance.</i></p> <p><i>An educational interest in this property might      include its historic service to the farmers of the area      as well as the scientific interest in the present use      of its water power, the generators.</i></p>				

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mason, Samuel. Historic Sketches of Harford County  
pp 62-63

Bright, C Milton, Our Harford Heritage p. 177

Harford County Directory p. 215

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	O	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	R	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NE	°     '     "	°     '     "		°     '     "	°     '     "
SE	°     '     "	°     '     "		°     '     "	°     '     "
SW	°     '     "	°     '     "		°     '     "	°     '     "

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	<i>Jean S. Ewing</i>	
ORGANIZATION:	<i>Maryland Historic Trust</i>	DATE: <i>Nov '69</i>
STREET AND NUMBER:	<i>50 State Circle</i>	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
<i>Annapolis</i>	<i>Maryland</i>	

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>			<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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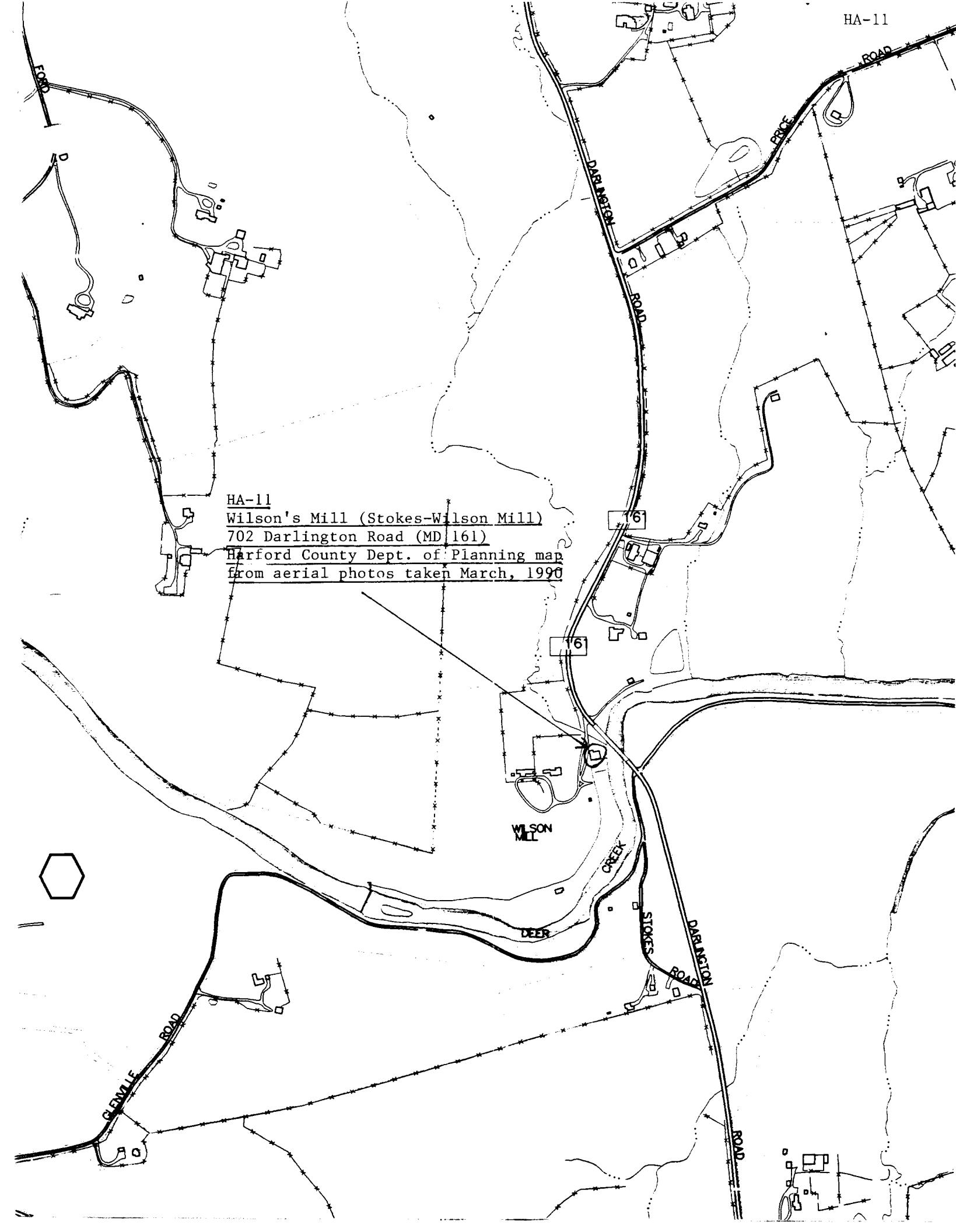
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

One of the oldest mills in Harford County,  
the date of its construction is unknown, but  
it is an item in the will of its owner in  
1783, Nathan Riegbie II. The tract,  
called "Parker's Chance" was patented by  
George Parker in 1684 and deeded to Nathan  
Riegbie II in 1743. Col Nathan Riegbie, father  
of the owner is reported to have supplied  
the Continental Army from his mill during  
the war. No other mill is known. Perhaps  
father and son considered it to be jointly owned.  
~~This record tends to corroborate the  
earlier date for the mill.~~

In continuous use thereafter until 1931 . . . .

(continue on yellow sheet)

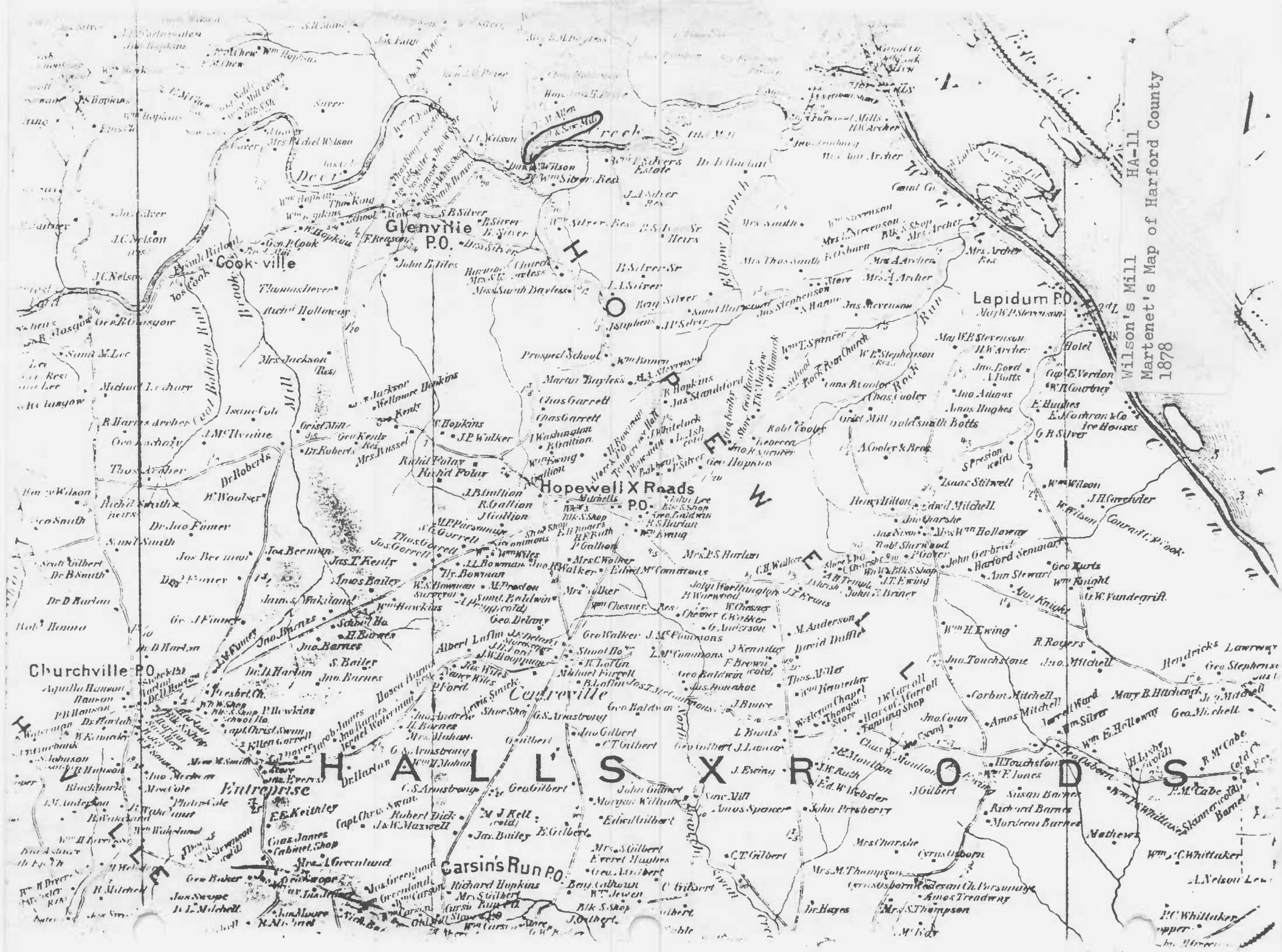
HA-11  
Wilson's Mill (Stokes-Wilson Mill)  
702 Darlington Road (MD 161)  
Harford County Dept. of Planning map  
from aerial photos taken March, 1990



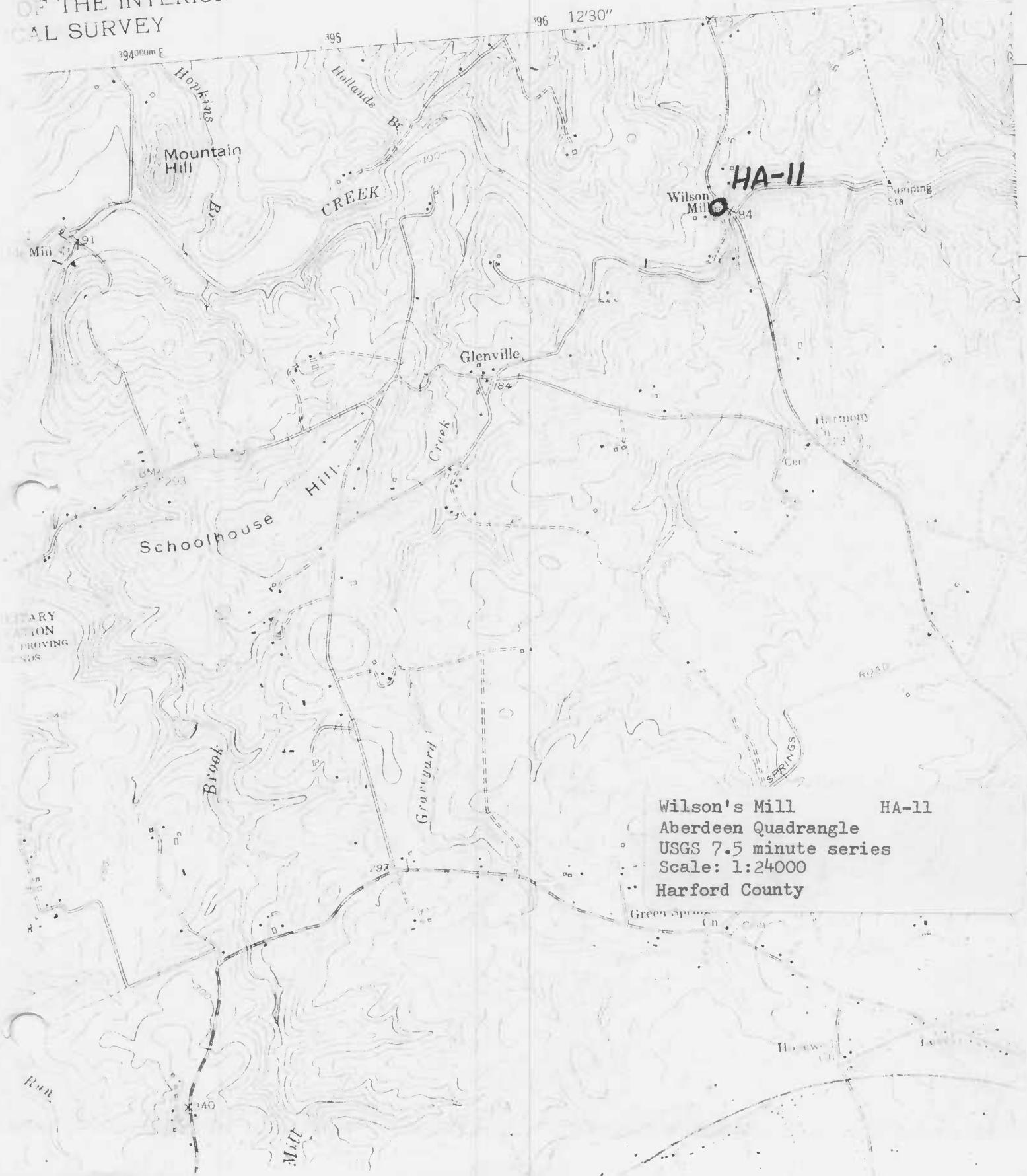
Wilson's Mill HA-11  
Jennings & Herrick's Map of  
Harford County  
1858



HA-11  
Martenet's Map of Harford County  
1878



CHARTS  
OF THE INTERIOR  
AL SURVEY





#A 11

Stokes-Wilson Mill

~~Wilsons Mill~~ & Niel. Rose Nov 109

a  
pp  
a



HA 11

Stokes-Wilson Mill Dam  
~~Wilson's Mill Dam, Bear Creek~~



Wilson's Mill  
Harford County, Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
September 1982  
View from north  
1/2

HA-11



Wilson's Mill  
Harford County, Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
September 1982  
Sluice gate, view from south  
2/2

HA-11



HA-10 Wilson's Mill House

HA-10 Wilson's Mill House